

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Contents

Late News

New Definitives

Sheets of the new 6p, 18p and 24p definitives issued for the proposed tariff changes in September will carry an additional printing number in the margin. This will appear in the top left margin close to the sheet number and is intended to help improve the quality assurance process. It will provide a record of when sheets of stamps are printed and enable the pinpointing of, for example, the printing of a batch of sheets with the same error. These numbers will appear on sheets of all other values as they are reprinted.

Cylinder numbers for the new definitives are: 6p – 11; 18p – 4 and 7; 24p – 1; 28p – 4; 34p – 2; 35p – 1; 39p – 2. The new £1 book (Punch) has cylinders B20 (green 2p) B1 (rust 24p).

Royal Mail Stamps has signed a printing contract with Enschedé of the Netherlands who will be printing supplies of 18p stamps in sheet form. The first day of availability from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters will be 19 November.

Modified versions of the High Values stamps, incorporating security devices, will be issued on 26 November. First day of issue facilities will be provided; full details will be published in the October *Bulletin*.

London Stamp Shop Moves

Rosendale Stamps, formerly also trading as Cathedral Stamps and Coins at Cathedral Place, near St Paul's Cathedral in London, has now opened a new shop at 41 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4N 4SA, Tel. 071-236 8729. The new shop is between Mansion House and Bank underground stations; the nearest BR stations are Blackfriars and Cannon Street.

Exhibition Cards

Royal Mail Stamps announce that exhibition cards are being discontinued as uneconomic. Four cards were issued between June 1987 and May 1990 for sale, with various stamps, handstamps and cachets, at exhibition in the UK and overseas. Card No 4 is still available from the British Philatelic Bureau with Queen Mother stamps and ASDA National '90 handstamp (1 November 1990) and with Dogs stamps and Spring Stampex 1991 handstamp (26 February 1991). Price £1.50 each, Bureau order codes EQ027 and EQ028 respectively.

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August Bulletin

We regret the late despatch of the August issue – this was due to finding new printers, our previous printers having ceased trading. The closing date for the August competition has been extended to 18 October.

Free Stampex Ticket

The presentation pack for the Maps stamps (issued 17 September 1991) will contain a free entry ticket for Autumn Stampex/BPE to be held at the Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Westminster, London SW1 on 15-20 October.

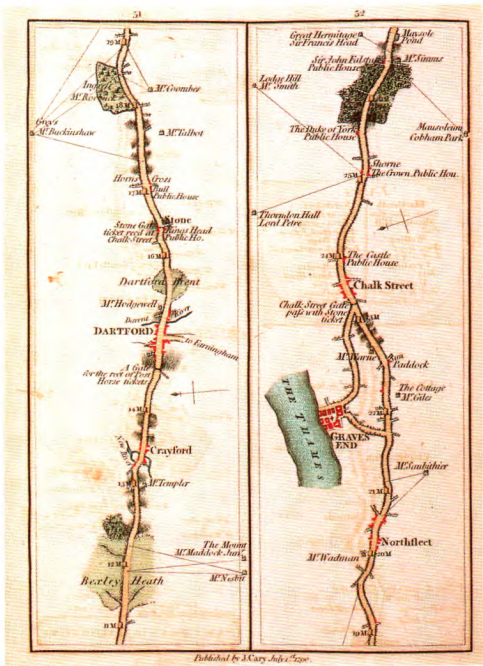
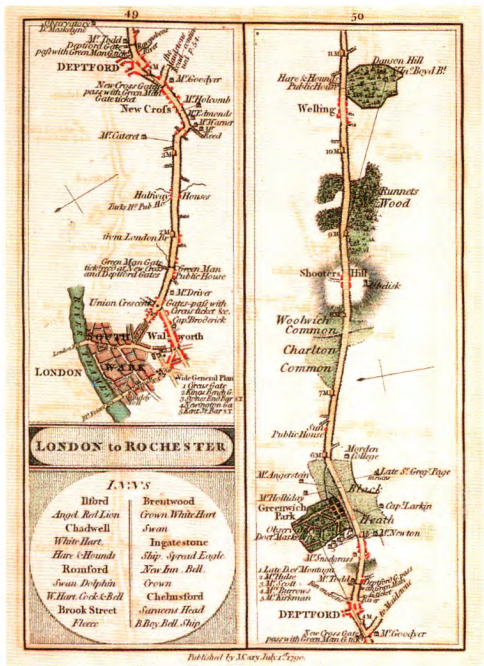
Maps and The Post Office

An exhibition under this title opens at the National Postal Museum on 17 September, day of issue of the Maps stamps. Shown here are two of the five NPM postcards to be issued on 17 September and the special handstamp to be used that day. Covers/cards to receive this handstamp should be sent no later than 17 September to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City & International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA asking for "NPM Map handstamp - 17 September".

We also feature a photograph of Chris Matthews of Harrisons working on the engravings for the Map stamps, Chris engraved the 1988 Castles High Values (see November 1988



Bulletin). Finally, courtesy of Kent County Library, Ashford, we show a 1930s postcard view of the post office at Hamstreet, the village which features on the Map stamps. Old photographs of Hamstreet are included in the NPM exhibition.



1992 Stamp Programme

The provisional dates of issue are given below. It should be noted that the dates are subject to change; any changes will be announced in the *Bulletin*.

14 Jan	Wintertime
28 Jan	Greetings – Memories
6 Feb	Happy and Glorious
25 Feb	Prestige Book (Wales)
10 Mar	Tennyson
7 Apr	Europa 92
16 Jun	The Civil War
21 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan
15 Sep	The Green Issue
13 Oct	Single European Market
27 Oct	Prestige Stamp Book (Tolkein)
10/17 Nov	Christmas

The **Winter** stamps will be of horizontal format, designed by Keith Bowen and feature Deer, Redwing, Sheep, Hare and Fox. They will be printed in photogravure by Harrison's. The alternative First Day of Issue postmark will be at Brecon – the area in which the sheep stamp design is set. Keith Bowen designed the 1988 Welsh Bible stamps and an exhibition of his work was held at the Museum of the North at Llanberis, Gwynedd earlier this year (see April 1991 *Bulletin*, page 187). An article by Mr Bowen on his Welsh Bible designs was published in the March 1988 issue of the *Bulletin*.

The **Happy and Glorious** issue will mark the 40th anniversary of The Queen's Accession and will show Her Majesty in her various roles as head of state, of the Church of England, of the Royal Family, of the Armed Forces, and of the Commonwealth. The stamps, designed by Why Not Associates, will be of horizontal format, printed in lithography by The House of Questa.

The **Europa** issue will have as its theme Columbus, Expo and the Olympics.

The **Civil War** issue will comprise four stamps, of almost square format, featuring a Pikeman, Drummer, Musketeer, and Standard Bearer. The designer was Jeremy Sancha and the

stamps will be printed in photogravure by Harrison's. The stamps mark the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Edgehill, the first battle of the Civil War. The alternative First Day of Issue postmark will be at Banbury, the nearest town to the Edgehill battlefield.

The **Welsh Prestige Stamp Book** will contain four panes: (1) four Winter special stamps (sheep design); (2) six 2nd class definitives; (3) three 1st and three 2nd class definitives, two 34p definitives and one label; (4) six 1st class definitives. This prestige book, designed by John Gibbs, is a natural progression from the Scottish and London Life books of 1989 and 1990. There will be a second Prestige Book later in the year to mark the centenary of J R R Tolkien. This will be in place of the book which would normally have been issued in February or March 1993.

The 1992 **Greetings Book** will contain stamps on the theme of nostalgia, depicting memorabilia like locket, keys and picture cards. The 10 stamps together form one complete picture. As before, the book will include greetings labels. The stamps, designed by Trickett and Webb, will be printed in photogravure by Harrison's.

Further details of these and other 1992 issues will be published here in due course.

Queen Mother Gate Appeal

A set of gates featuring the heraldic lion and unicorn is to be constructed in Hyde Park commemorating the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. The Appeal Fund committee is headed by HRH Prince Michael of Kent. Donations to the appeal can be simply made by affixing a £1 stamp (or stamps to that value), available at any of the nation's 20,000 post offices, to a postcard and sending it to: The Queen Mother's Gate Appeal, Royal Mail, PO Box 1991, LONDON EC3B 3QE. The Royal Mail will pass on to the appeal the full cash value of every £1 stamp, with no deductions for administration or postage. Post Office Chairman, Sir Bryan Nicholson, said: "The Royal Mail, best in a European postal survey, is teaming up with Britain's best known shops – post offices – to honour the country's favourite great grandmother."



Christmas Aerogramme

Illustrated by Jane Thomson
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme



SECOND FOLD HERE

Sender's name and address
(please show postcode)

An aerogramme should not contain
any enclosures or discs. It may be
surcharged to send by ordinary mail.

Christmas 1991

Illustrated by Jane Thomson
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

FIRST FOLD HERE



Shown here is the 1991 Christmas aerogramme to be issued on 8 October. It features angels and the Christmas message: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill towards men. The illustrations are by Jane Thomson. The aerogramme, produced by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited, will be available from post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters, price 44p (includes 34p postage). It will be withdrawn from sale at post offices on 24 December.

The National Postal Museum - 25 Years On

DOUGLAS N MUIR

Curator, Philately

It was 25 years ago this month that Edward Short, then Postmaster General, opened the first small section of the National Postal Museum. Some three years later, in 1969, the Museum as it exists today was formally opened by HM The Queen. This has proved to be a source of confusion down the years (even within the Museum) as to how "old" we are. For example, in 1979 a commemorative postal stationery envelope celebrated only 10 years of the NPM's existence. Nevertheless, there is no doubt in my mind that we are now 25.



Edward Short (now Lord Glenamara) as Postmaster General, 1966-68. (Photo: Post Office Photo Library)

A lot has happened in the intervening years. Exhibitions have come and gone; research has been undertaken; books, reports, articles and booklets have been published; the collections have been greatly expanded. But the core of the Museum has remained the same - the unparalleled Phillips collection of Victorian G.B. stamps, proofs and essays combined with the Post Office's own collections of registration sheets and artwork. These have been a wonderful source of information and enjoyment and will continue to be so.

Any museum must be backward-looking, in as much as it aims to preserve the material

remains of the past. But if that is all that is done then the museum will wither and die. The National Postal Museum has never allowed itself to rest on past glories, but rather has always looked to the future: what can we do now that will be required in years to come? How can we better inform (and entertain) all those who visit us?

Needless to say these questions have to be answered within various constraints - mainly those of limited resources (money, space and staff). Nevertheless, we intend to be in the forefront of several important developments in the philatelic and museum worlds. One eye may be on the past but the other is firmly fixed on the future.

Conservation

Perhaps the most important development over the past few years has been the intense interest taken in paper conservation. All paper deteriorates over time, slowly or more quickly depending on its constituents and the conditions in which it is kept. Refinements to conservation treatment techniques are constantly being researched and Catherine Rickman, the NPM conservator, has written a number of articles, published in the NPM's annual reports, explaining what she does and how collectors can protect their own items.

Generally, this is more prevention rather than cure. Conditions in which items are kept and displayed are crucial.

There are three main causes of deterioration (other than poor handling). These are: 1. acidity; 2. excessive exposure to light; 3. humidity.

Acid is particularly bad for cellulose, the principal component of paper. What is more it will travel wherever there is moisture. It can therefore migrate from poor quality materials to those that have previously been sound. All materials used in housing stamps and other items should be at least neutral (pH 7.0) but preferably mildly alkaline (pH 8.0 - 8.5). Because of this the Museum now has its own album pages, protectors and binders produced. Black backing paper, so beloved of collectors to

enhance the appearance of their gems, is often not only acidic but the dye may also be extremely fugitive. Any backing paper used in the Museum is now made of conservation paper.

For some time all material newly mounted or remounted has been on conservation quality pages and over a fairly long period all the Museum's holdings will be transferred to them.

At best, deterioration in paper can be arrested rather than reversed. Some of the most common complaints are foxing or mould staining, and rust stains. All restoration treatments intended to remove these carry the risk of further damage to the paper and they should therefore be considered irremovable. Chemical bleaches should never be used on postal material. Paper can be cleaned and repaired by a conservator but deeply ingrained dirt will often be fixed in place. In the past few years a number of items from the Museum have been treated where necessary and this programme will continue. The results of any research will continue to be published to help and guide collectors and other interested parties.

The World's First Cancelling Machine

One of the main changes documented in, and by, postal history is that of postal mechanisation. Gradually, machines have taken over the work of men, made necessary by the increasing volume of mail. Some "machines" were already being suggested in 1839/40 for both sorting and stamping the mail but there is no evidence that any were put into use.

The first machine to be used experimentally by the Post Office was designed in 1857 by Pearson Hill, son of Rowland. It was the world's first stamp cancelling machine. In an official letter to his father, now working as Secretary to the Post Office, Pearson wrote on 3 April 1857: *Having for a long time past endeavoured, during leisure hours, to devise a machine which might advantageously be employed in stamping letters - the object in view being to obtain clear and legible date stamps, and a more perfect obliteration of the postage labels, and, if possible, to save time in the performance of the stamping duties generally, I beg to acquaint you that I have now devised a machine which will, I believe, accomplish the object in view.*

Thus it is clear that the primary object was clearer cancellations rather than a more efficient operation. Hill's proposal was accepted and a full-scale machine was built and tested in the London office from September 1857. Modifications to the machine and dates of use have been

discussed recently by Jack Peach in this magazine.

The machine itself has not survived, neither the wooden model constructed in March 1857 nor the cast-iron version tested on live mail later in the year. However, Hill's patent does survive. From this, it was decided, it might be possible to reconstruct the original machine. This could then form the centrepiece of the exhibition "Stamping the Mail", the main NPM display of 1991/2.

It is the duty of any living museum not only to preserve but to create. As the Science Museum recently constructed one of Babbage's computers so the National Postal Museum wanted to build Pearson Hill's prototype of a stamping machine. Building a machine, like copying a drawing or painting, gives insights into the problems involved and how they were overcome (or, indeed, how they caused the failure of the experiment).

We asked Ian Fraser of the Post Office's Engineering Research Department at Swindon if the project was feasible. When Ian agreed that he thought it could be done he turned to Geoff Blyth of Professional Developments Ltd. Attached to the written patent were seven diagrams, some half size, others full size. However, a few parts were not drawn, being left to the engineers to interpret and devise their own solutions. Geoff faced the same problems.



Ian Fraser of the Post Office Research Centre tests the replica Pearson Hill machine. (Photo: Tony Gammons)

Rather than produce a table-top model in wood or a modern plastic, Geoff opted to make a full-size, cast-iron, working replica. This was made possible by a very cheap method of making one-off castings - by carving the parts in wood and using the wood to make moulds in sand, the very method that would have been used in Victorian times.

Being no engineer I am not qualified to discuss the problems or the solutions or the ingenuity of Hill's design. But the story of the rebuilding of the machine, when finished, will be a fascinating one encompassing, as it does, works burning down and wheels being redesigned from other Victorian models. It was a challenge, remarkably met. I hope that by the time this is published it will be in operation in the Museum.

The Future

What the National Postal Museum will be like 25 years hence I do not know. But plans are in hand to make the collections much more accessible to the public, lay and specialist alike. This involves computerisation.

At the moment a number of collections are listed on computer and these listings will eventually form the basis of definitive catalogues. However descriptions are at present only in words. A new system is due to be installed this year which will combine high resolution colour images with verbal descriptions. This will enable the user to look in detail at an item without disturbing the original. Documentation, the basis of good museum practice, will be more secure and more immediately retrievable. And it is hoped, in time, to make this available to visitors. To find what the Museum has in its collections would mean sitting down at a terminal and keying in simple questions. The items available could then be listed on the screen with background information, and examined. However, that is some time in the future, and if and when it happens will depend on the operation of the system in practice.

Suffice it to say that the National Postal Museum will always try to anticipate whatever future demands might be, and to keep a balance between preservation on the one hand and visitor interest and participation on the other.

The National Postal Museum is located in the London Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, London EC1, a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral. Open Monday-Thursday 9.30am-4.30pm, Friday 9.30am-4pm. Admission free.

Birmingham Collections



Shown here is the new Collections at Birmingham's main post office. A listing of Collections and Philatelic Counters, with addresses and opening times, was published in the May Bulletin. Collections sell Royal Mail Stamps products and a wide range of philatelic accessories, phone cards, coin sets, postcards, etc.

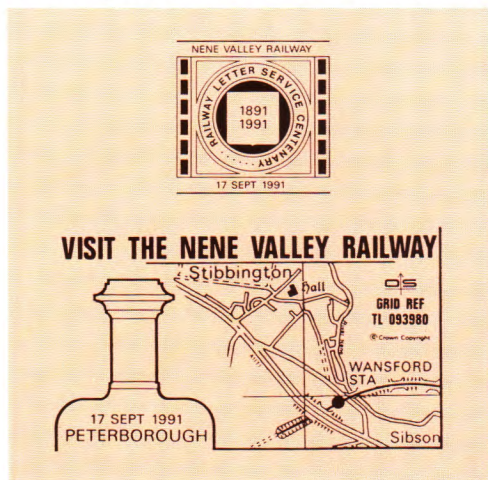
Improved Handstamp Impressions

A new hi-technology "Pad Cancellor" machine is being tested at the London North Special Handstamp Centre at Royal Mail City & International, King Edward Street, London EC1. The machine will give a much sharper impression than previous handstamp machines and old-fashioned manual handstamps. Our photograph shows Djemal Mustafa of the Special Handstamp Centre applying cancellations to some test covers bearing the Sport stamps.



Railway Letter Stamps

On 17 September, to coincide with the Royal Mail's Maps stamps, the Nene Valley Railway will issue a new 25p railway letter stamp showing a specially commissioned painting of LMS "Black Five" No. 5231 by the well-known artist David Weston. The locomotive has been steaming on the NVR since 1989. The stamps will be printed in sheets of nine, by Fisherprint of Peterborough. Mint stamps will be available at face value. Special first day covers are being produced; the railway stamp will be cancelled by a handstamp commemorating the centenary of the Railway Letter Service. The design of the handstamp takes the form of a railway letter



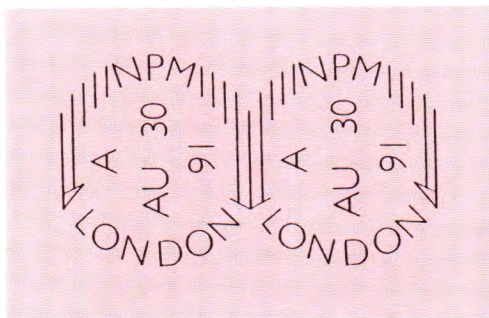
stamp of 1981. The Royal Mail Map stamp will be cancelled by a special handstamp featuring an OS map showing the location of Wansford station (the NVR runs from Wansford to Peterborough). Standard covers cost £2.50. A limited number will be signed by the Mayor of Peterborough and the artist, price £4.90. Fifty proof sheets of the stamps, signed by the artist, are being offered at £24 each.

On 27 and 30 September special NVR cancellations will be used to mark the last day of TPO services between Peterborough, Lincoln and Crewe and the first day of TPO services between Peterborough and Crewe. These cancels will be applied to "Black Five" stamps and suitably amended covers and it is hoped the Royal Mail stamps will receive appropriate TPO handstamps. All orders/enquiries: Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibington, PETERBOROUGH PE8 6LR.

NPM Pearson Hill Machine & Cachet

The Post Office Research Centre at Swindon and Professional Developments of Bishop's Waltham have recently produced for the National Postal Museum an exact working, full-size replica of the Pearson Hill stamp cancelling machine of 1857. This they have done from the original patent drawings; none of the original machines survive. The replica involves an intricate system of gears and linkages and is operated by foot-treadle. The machine was delivered to the Museum in mid-August and should be on public display by the time this *Bulletin* is published. From time to time a member of the Museum staff will demonstrate the machine to visitors – for details of dates and times please phone the Museum on 071-239 5420.

A dated cachet resembling the Pearson Hill machine cancel will be fitted in the machine and will be applied to a special NPM cover featuring a portrait of Pearson Hill (1832-98), son of Sir Rowland Hill. The cover and cachet will be available to visitors at 75p. Covers can be ordered by post, price £1 for one cover, 75p each for two or more. Orders to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. The cover will remain on sale until April 1992 when the "Stamping the Mail" postmark exhibition closes. It should be noted that this cachet will only be applied to the special covers and will *not* be used



to cancel postage stamps. Offered subject unsold and initially a maximum of 10 covers per order. Early orders advised.

A two-part article on Pearson Hill and his machines was published in the June and July 1991 issues of this *Bulletin*. Copies are available from the British Philatelic Bureau and the National Postal Museum, price 55p each.

Urban Renewal

British Special Issues No.168

FRANCIS KENNEDY

The subject of this issue, released on 10 April 1984, might well have resulted in some banal designs, a trap avoided by the partnership of designers Trickett and Webb with Ronald Maddox, an experienced stamp designer and specialist in architectural art. Between them they cleverly produced four disparate designs with a common factor - a scroll plan of the development dealt with in each design.

The **16p** stamp featured the Garden Festival Hall, Liverpool, which demonstrated what imaginative developers can do with a disused 125-acre site in an old dock basin in what is so often regarded as Britain's most derelict city. The site was transformed into a showpiece for housing Britain's first International Gardens Festival. Some 60 acres remain as a public park, dominated by the vast conservatory-style Festival Hall, designed by Arup and Associates, which features on the stamp. The further 65 acres have been allocated for residential and commercial development, landscaped to the advantage of both sectors.

The **20½p** stamp featured the Milburngate Centre, Durham. The refurbishing of old property and new construction to blend was based on plans made by building Design Partnership. Behind the old facade there is a modern shopping centre supported by up-to-date technology.

Shown on the **28p** value was Bush House, Bristol another dockland development in the centre of Bristol which the smaller ships of a bygone age were able to reach. Larger modern ships could not sail to the centre and Avonmouth was developed instead. Bristol City Council undertook the regeneration of the old docks which now house the imposing bush House, local radio station, exhibition hall, art gallery, museums and specialist shops: altogether an irresistible cultural centre. New housing is sited on the waterfront and a sailing centre includes a ferry service which is popular with the residents and visitors.

The **31p** stamp depicted Commercial Street, Perth, a completely new development in the construction of which much of the original

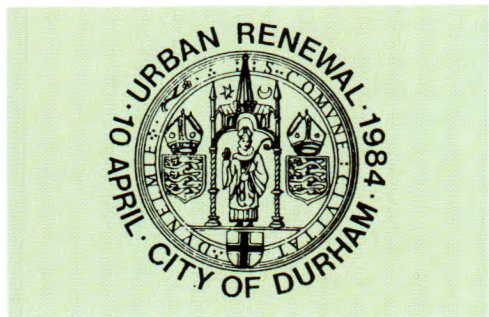
material of the derelict properties was re-used. The outcome was a pleasant melding of old and new to produce cottage-like properties which for centuries have been sited on the banks of the river Tay. The stamp shows the deliberate planning to allow the roof lines to be at different angles and heights adding charm to the development as seen from the river.

All four designs suitably commemorated the 150th anniversaries of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the chartered Institute of Building.



Harrisons printed the stamps in photogravure in sheets of 100 (perf. 15 x 14) on unwatermarked phosphor-coated paper, backed by PVA Dextrin gum. Only two prominent flaws are listed in the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue*, namely: 16p (dot cylinder, row 3, stamp 1), a spot on the lawn just above BA of URBAN, and 31p (dot cylinder, row 2, stamp 10), retouch on side window of first house on right. Additionally, the 20½p is known imperforate.

Sales by the withdrawal date of 10 April 1985 were: 16p — 37,237,000; 20½p — 6,998,600; 28p — 6,507,500; 31p — 6,177,6000. The four PHQ postcards were numbered 74a-d; 210,000 sets were produced. Official pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks were used at the British Philatelic Bureau and Liverpool. Notable amongst the sponsored handstamps was that



commissioned by the City of Durham — an elaborate handstamps based on the civic seal. An attractive handstamp was used on mail posted at the temporary post office at the Liverpool Garden Festival from 3 May to 14 October 1984.



The post office at the Liverpool International Garden Festival (Photo: John Holman)

Philatelic Price Changes

Shown below are the revised prices for Royal Mail philatelic products, operative from 16 September 1991:

First Day/Souvenir Envelope	21p
Royal Mail Stamp Card	21p
FDC Album Large	£15.25
Album Leaves (pack of 10)	£4.40
FDC Album Small	£10.50
Album Leaves (pack of 10)	£3
Presentation Pack Album	£15.25
Album Leaves (pack of 10)	£4.40
Royal Mail Stock Book Large	£21.95
Royal Mail Stock Book Small	£6.85

The price for the 1991 Collectors' Pack will be £11.50 and the 1991 Yearbook £19.50.

The new subscription rates to this *Bulletin* will be: inland £6.75, overseas airmail £10.25; single copies 60p, binders £6.75. The subscriptions to the *British Postmark Bulletin* will be: inland £9.35; Europe £11.50; overseas airmail £20.75. The basic charge for sponsoring a postmark slogan will be £134 with the charge for the first die, extra die and time charge £91, £80 and £12.25 respectively. Charges for special handstamps are not being increased.

1991 Christmas Stamps

The 1991 Christmas issue will be released on 12 November and will comprise five values showing illustrated manuscripts taken from books in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The stamps will illustrate The Magi visiting Jesus; Mary and Jesus in the stable; The shepherds visiting Jesus; The Annunciation; and the Flight into Egypt. The stamps will be of horizontal format, designed by David Driver. Full details will be published next month. The Christmas acogramme will be issued on 8 October — details are given elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Royal Mail Success

Red stamp books are now on sale at some 50,000 shops, garages and other retail outlets. Sales of stamps have been promoted by television advertising and special offers. At the Institute of Sales Promotion Grand Prix, Royal Mail recently won the prize for the best promotion in 1990 beating competition from companies like Coca-Cola and Brooke Bond. The promotion involved sending stamp book covers and stamps in exchange for small hand-painted ceramic bears.

Top US Award for Royal Mail Stamps

The Royal Mail's "Smiles" greetings stamps have won a top US design award. They were selected by the Art Directors Club in New York for a gold medal in competition with more than 18,000 entries from the United States and overseas. Said Keith Fisher, General Manager of Royal Mail Stamps: "This is a major success for our stamp designs which set artistic standards that are admired around the world."



This new award follows earlier acclaim for the "Smiles" greetings stamps – these won first prize in the graphic design section of the 1990 BBC Design Awards and scooped a top place in last year's prestigious Designers and Art Directors Awards.

Both the "Smiles" and "Good Luck" greetings stamps are on sale at £2.20 in book form, each containing 10 first class stamps and a selection of greetings labels that can be paired with them.

The first greetings stamps — five designs at 19p each — were issued in January 1989; followed by the "Smiles" stamps — 10 designs at 20p each — in February 1990. The "Good Luck" stamps — 10 designs with 1ST NVI — were issued on 5 February 1991 with NVI versions of the "Smiles" following on 26 March 1991. These NVI stamps remain on long-term sale.

Stamp Active Achievement Award

A new Achievements Award scheme sponsored by stamp printers The House of Questa Ltd has been launched for younger stamp collectors. Promoted by the Youth Committee of the British Philatelic Federation through its Stamp Active programme, the awards can be taken by any person under the age of 18. Schools and clubs do not have to be members of Stamp Active to take part in the scheme. It is open to any group who want to take the awards but children must be assessed by approved persons

in accordance with the rules of the scheme. Full details from: John Davies, Stamp Active, 3 Longfellow Road, BANBURY, Oxon, OX16 9LB; please enclose A4-size SAE.

The information pack gives full details of what is required for each award. For the Bronze Award, for example, the entrant is required to: 1. produce an 8 page collection of stamps, suitably written up and talk about it to the examiner; 2. visit other stamp collectors and talk to them about their hobby; 3. understand how to keep stamps and to care for them; 4. demonstrate the ability to remove stamps from paper; 5. identify the countries of 10 stamps using a stamp finder; 6. membership of a stamp organisation, such as a school stamp club.

The new Achievements Award is one of the most important initiatives in youth philately for many years. The Awards have been produced by Questa who have produced the certificates and financed the initial cost of the enamelled badges for the bronze, silver and gold awards. Wally Rodgers, of Questa, commented: "We are delighted to be involved in this programme."



The Youth Committee of BPF has worked hard to create new and original materials to help anyone interested in youth stamp collecting. The award scheme will encourage younger collectors to improve their skills and knowledge of stamps and they will now receive recognition of their achievements through the Stamp Active award."

Stamp Active was launched in 1990 to help the adult organisers of junior stamp clubs with ideas, resource materials and regular updates. Details from John Davies, address above.

Student Stamp Designs



Featured here are some more of the Royal Society of Arts student stamp designs for Shakespeare stamps; others were shown in the August Bulletin. Those shown here are by: top row – Christopher Raybould (Derbyshire College of Higher Education), bottom row – Deborah Downing (Croydon College) and Susan Davies (Humberside Polytechnic).

British Thematic Association

The BTA announced on 10 July that it is now an independent society affiliated to, but no longer a Committee of, the British Philatelic Federation. Details of membership can be obtained from: Ian Paton, 15 Humberstone Road, CAMBRIDGE CB4 1JD.

The BTA reports that some 1,500 collectors visited the Thematica 91 exhibition in London on 29/30 June. The winner of the John Fosbery Trophy Competition was Colin Mount ("Pig in the Post"), in second and third places were John Leathes ("The Tiger") and Mrs Woolford ("The Wise Old Bird"). The BTA Cup for the most promising entry was awarded to Margaret Shaida ("Women Through the Ages"). Next year's exhibition will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, London W2 on 27-28 June 1992; enquiries to: Thematica 92, PO Box 255, LONDON WC2N 6JR.

Chuckle Corner



"It's lovely stuff except the bubbles go straight up your nose." (Cartoon by Trevor Andrews of the Royal Aerospace Establishment, Farnborough)

Decimal Definitive Colours

A number of readers have written in asking about the colours of decimal definitive stamps. We hope the following listing of the official Royal Mail colour for each denomination will prove of value. The year of first issue of each stamp is quoted. It should be noted that the Royal Mail colours may differ from the descriptions used by publishers of stamp catalogues.

Low Values

½p turquoise (1971)
1p crimson (1971)
1½p charcoal grey (1971)
2p green (1971)
2p green† (1988)
2½p pink (1971)
2½p rose (1981)
3p bright blue (1971)
3p dark pink (1980)
3½p grey-green (1971)
3½p light reddish brown (1983)
4p light sepia (1971)
4p peacock blue (1980)
4p deep turquoise† (1988)
4½p steel blue (1973)
5p pale violet (1971)
5p light reddish brown (1982)
5p ash pink† (1988)
5½p dark purple (1973)
6p light green (1971)
6p lime green (1991)
6½p peacock blue (1974)
7p red-brown (1975)
7p brick red (1985)
7½p light brown (1971)
8p red (1973)
8½p yellowish green (1975)
9p orange & black (1971)
9p blue (1976)
9½p purple (1976)
10p reddish brown (1971)
10p beige (1976)
10p light tan† (1990)
10½p yellow (1976)
10½p steel blue (1978)
11p rose (1976)
11½p sepia (1979)
11½p mushroom (1981)
12p yellowish green (1980)
12p emerald green (1985)
12½p light green (1982)

13p grey-green (1979)
13p light brown (1984)
13½p red-brown (1980)
14p steel blue (1981)
14p dark blue† (1988)
15p bright blue (1979)
15p bright blue (1989)
15½p light purple (1981)
16p light mushroom (1983)
16½p light brown (1982)



17p light green (1980)
17p steel blue (1983)
17p dark blue† (1990)
17½p light brown (1980)
18p blue (1981)
18p grey-green (1984)
18p light green† (1991)
19p flame† (1988)
19½p grey-green (1982)
20p grey (1976)
20p sea-green† (1988)
20p black (1989)
20½p bright blue (1983)
22p deep blue (1980)
22p yellowish green (1984)
22p flame† (1990)
23p rose (1983)
23p light green† (1988)
24p light purple (1984)
24p terracotta† (1989)
24p rust† (1991)
25p purple (1981)
26p red (1982)
26p stone† (1990)
27p rust† (1988)
27p mauve† (1990)

28p blue (1983)
 28p sand† (1988)
 28p slate blue† (1991)
 29p sepia (1982)
 29p purple† (1989)
 30p sage† (1989)
 31p purple (1983)
 31p ultramarine† (1990)
 32p dark turquoise† (1988)
 33p emerald† (1990)
 34p sepia (1984)
 34p slate† (1989)
 34p purple† (1991)
 35p dark brown† (1988)
 35p old gold† (1991)
 37p red† (1989)
 39p rhododendron† (1991)
 50p ochre (1977)
 50p sand† (1990)
 75p charcoal grey (1980)
 75p dark grey† (1988)

Non-Value Indicator Stamps

1st black (1989)
 1st flame† (1990)
 2nd bright blue (1989‡)
 2nd dark blue† (1990)

Machin Head High Values

10p ceriseØ (1970)
 20p olive greenØ (1970)
 50p sapphire blueØ (1970)
 £1 blue-blackØ (1970)
 £1 olive-green & pale greenish yellow (1977)
 £1.30 buff & blue-green (1983)
 £1.33 rose-lilac & blue-black (1984)
 £1.41 buff & blue-green (1985)
 £1.50 rose-lilac & blue-black (1986)
 £1.60 buff & blue-green (1987)
 £2 purple brown & pale green (1977)
 £5 Royal blue & pale pink (1977)

Castles High Values

£1 greenØ (1988)
 £1.50 burgundyØ (1988)
 £2 blueØ (1988)
 £5 brownØ (1988)

Notes:

† = Jeffery Matthews colour scheme

‡ = reissued 1991

Ø = recess (intaglio) printed

New Definitives

Shown here are the new definitives to be issued on 10 September, together with the front covers of the new 50p and £1 books.



£1

Royal Mail
Stamps

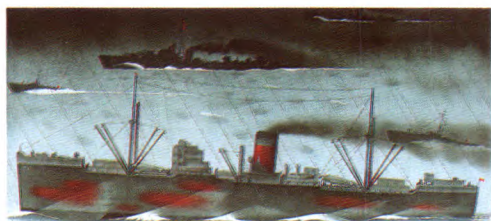
Four at 24p
Two at 2p

Post Office Archives Cards

Post Office Archives will put on sale four new cards at their stand at Autumn Stampex on 15 October. The cards feature four striking war-time posters bearing the slogan "Make Your Money Provide the Driving Power – Put it in the Post Office Savings Bank". The individual subjects are: (1) A Night Bomber taking off, by Austin Cooper, April 1942; (2) Army trucks in action, by Robbe, December 1942; (3) Munitions, by H A Rotholz, January 1943; and (4) Merchant Shipping Convoy, by Eric Fraser, April 1943.

The cards will cost 25p each. A special Post Office Archives/Autumn Stampex cachet will be available at the stand and will be applied to these, and other Archives cards, on request. These cards were originally announced for issue at Spring Stampex; the issue was subsequently postponed. Still available are the seven cards issued by Post Office Archives at Stamp World London 90 (May 1990) — these were illustrated here in October 1990 (page 44).

Also going on sale at Autumn Stampex will be hand-coloured versions of the two 1844 engravings of the London Inland Office and



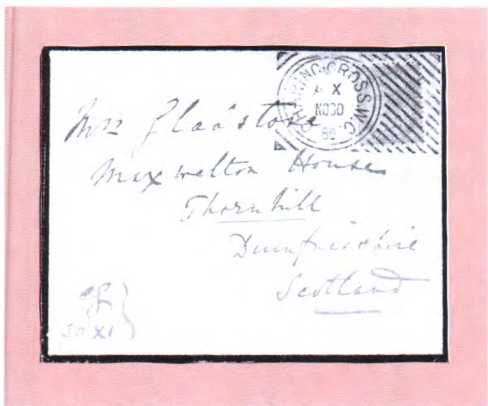
**make your money provide the
driving power · put it into the
POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK**

Letter Carriers Room. Uncoloured reproductions of these were launched at Stamp World. The hand-coloured versions, limited to 50 of each, will cost £38 each. An article on these engravings, by Kevin Squelch of Post Office Archives, was published here in September 1990 (pp.10-12).



Events

until April 1992. "Stamping the Mail" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Thu 9.30-16.30; Fri 9.30-16.00. Admission free.



Scarce Charing Cross, WC Hoster machine cancel, 1885-7

5 July-29 September 1991. "The Pursuit of Perfection: The Photographs of Dorothy Wilding" exhibition at National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2. Open Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00, Sat 10.00-18.00, Sun 14.00-18.00. Admission free.

17 September 1991-17 January 1992. "Maps and the Post Office" exhibition at National Postal Museum. Details above.

19-22 September 1991. British Philatelic Federation Congress at The Park Hotel, Cardiff. Details from: BPF, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

21 September 1991. Festival of Stamps at Banbury Town Hall, 10.00-16.00. Displays including The History of Banbury, Story of the Post, Royal Family, Birds, Music. Juniors section, videos, etc. Organised by Banbury Stamp Society to commemorate its 10th anniversary. Details from: John Davies, Tel. 0295-255831 (evenings).

28 September 1991. Preston & District Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair at Harris Conference Centre, Garstang Road, Preston. Dealers in stamps, postal history and postcards. Enquiries: Paul Gaywood, 44 Gillow Road, Kirkham, PRESTON PR4 2JS. Tel. 0772-684302.

12 October 1991. Torquex 91 stamp exhibition and fair at Oldway Mansion, Paignton, 10.30-16.30. Displays, dealers. The exhibition is staged by the Torquay Philatelic Society which this year celebrates its 70th anniversary. Details from: L Watkins, 2 Locks Close, Babbacombe, TORQUAY TQ1 3TU.

15-20 October 1991. Autumn Stampex/BPE. National stamp exhibition at Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Greycoat Street and Vincent Square, London SW1. Open 15 Oct 12.00-19.00, 16-19 Oct 10.30-19.00, 20 Oct 10.30-18.00, admission charge.

Postal Memorabilia. David Harrop will provide displays of postal memorabilia at: Malpas Yesteryear Rally, Hamptopn Old Hall, Hampton, Malpas, Cheshire (7-8 September); Roxton Park Traction Engine Rally, Roxton, Bedford (14-15); EssexSteam Rally, Barleylands Farm, Billericay, Essex (21-22) and National Traction Engine Club Steam Party, Sandhills Farm, Astwood Bank, Redditch, Worcs (28-29). Enquiries to Mr Harrop on 061-442 1089.

Society News

In January we announced the setting up of the **Sussex Postal History Society**. The inaugural meeting, held on 16 March, was attended by 22 members. The Society has become affiliated to the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies. Details of the new SPHS can be obtained from its Secretary & Treasurer: John E O Hobbs, FRPSL, 12 Ophir Road, WORTHING, W Sussex, BN11 2SR. We wish the new society well.

The **Salvation Army Philatelic Circle** has now been formed and proposes to issue its first quarterly journal in September and to hold its first postal auction during the Autumn. A wants list service is proposed and practical advice and help will be available without charge. Annual subscription: £5 UK, £6 rest of Europe, £8 other countries. Further details from: Harry Hayes, 11 Chatsworth Drive, Haxby, YORK YO3 3QS.

The **Welsh Philatelic Society** held its AGM at Plas Tan y Bwlch near Porthmadog on 14-16 June. During the weekend displays were given by Roger Broomfield: "The Aberystwyth Roads" — entires and covers carried from 16th to 18th centuries with a wide variety of different marks used; Elizabeth Eade "Take a Chance" — a selection of past club competition entries and

Eric Needs "North Atlantic Mails". Future meetings are planned at Llanwrst (19 October), Bridgend (9 November), Shrewsbury (11 April) and Chester (16 May) with a special meeting in February to celebrate the Society's 21st birthday. Full details of the WPS and its activities from: Gwynne Morris, 27 Tan y Bryn, Llanbedre DC, RUTHIN, Clwyd, LL15 1AQ.

Plate & Cylinder Update

The Venerable T Barfett of Truro reports the 31p Sports stamp from cylinders 3A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F and the 10 x 1st Walsall book (with Newcastle Freepost address) from plates W7W7W8.

Douglas G A Myall of Bridport reports the following plates in the new August 1991 Walsall books: 4 x 2nd — W4W4; 4 x 1st — W4W6W6 and W4W6W6W6; 10 x 2nd — W7W4; 10 x 1st — W7W7W9.

J W Staines of Billericay has written concerning the new books, pointing out that whilst they contain no new stamps, two of the Walsall books contain new panes containing the 2nd class stamp in bright blue: pane of 4 perforated right side (August 1989 book had straight edge right) and pane of 10 (Walsall did not produce books of 10 in 1989).

Specialised Machins Database

QB Software announces a new IBM compatible database of Specialised Decimal Machins — more than 2,500 of them complete beyond the Christie booklet. The database provides full descriptions, values, tick boxes, editing, and produces want lists and inventories. It complements the GB database (see September 1990 *Bulletin*, page 12) of definitives and commemoratives now expanded to include the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The complete GB database with Islands costs £17.50, and the Specialised Machins database costs £12.50 inclusive of postage. Both packages are available for £22.50. Orders/enquiries: Dr P R Aaby, QB Software, 50 North Way, SEAFORD, East Sussex, BN25 3HP, Tel. 0323-895077.

New Philatelic Society

A new society has been formed in Chorley; collectors in that area interested in joining should contact: A M O'Neill, 8 Lancaster Drive, Brinscall, CHORLEY, Lancs, PR6 8QA. We wish the new society well.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

189. Ink Trials for the Twopenny Blue

The change of colour from black to red on the penny stamp was necessitated by the use of black ink for the cancellation. A black cancellation would not show up on a black stamp. But it would cancel a blue stamp quite well so there was no need to change the colour of the Twopenny Blue. Nevertheless, it was thought prudent to experiment with blue inks to see if they could be made more soluble. A series of trials within the "Rainbow Trials" was made and from those produced No 3 plain was chosen. However, this too proved insufficient and a further series of trials resulted. When the new twopenny blue was printed white lines were added top and bottom to distinguish it readily from the previous version.



The trials illustrated are of "Fugitive Inks" printed on two types of paper — one plain and the other with prussiate in the paper. They were sent to Rowland Hill on 1 September 1840 and form part of the special exhibition mounted in the National Postal Museum to mark the 150th anniversary of the Penny Red and the second Twopenny Blue.

In London's Chief Office, King Edward Street, EC1, the Museum is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm; Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission free.

Douglas N Muir, Curator Philately, NPM

Posting Boxes

123. 1911 Coronation Aerial Post

The first UK air mail took place on 9 September 1911 from Hendon to Windsor — the idea of Sir William Windham, as a part of the Coronation celebrations of King George V. Special wooden boxes were constructed, painted in red, and placed in various post offices and in certain London stores, as well as one at Hendon aerodrome. One of these boxes has survived, now the property of the Windsor and Maidenhead Council. It was for a time on show at the Windsor Philatelic Counter but is now in store. We are obliged to Fred Fuzzens, local historian of Windsor and a former Post Office employee, for supplying this photograph of this historically important box.



Special stationery was designed for the 1911 air mail, postcards cost 6½d, envelopes 1s 1d; postage in those days was ½d for postcards, 1d for letters. A profit of £937 was made from the venture, a bed was endowed in King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor; a plaque in Edward Ward records this.

Readers interested in letter boxes are reminded of the existence of the Letter Box Study Group — details of which can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9BS.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: September Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 October.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Christmas stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the December *Bulletin*.

1. Who designed the 1991 Christmas aerogramme?
2. Which country will be commemorated by a prestige stamp book in 1992?
3. The British Philatelic Federation Congress is being held at which conference centre?
4. What was the theme of the 1990/91 Royal Society of Arts student stamp design competition?
5. When was the Stamp Active programme launched?

The competition is not open to staff (and their families) of Royal Mail Stamps and its agents. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the June competition were: Audrey Kirk of Queensland, Australia (£50 worth of Royal Mail products); J Karlowski of London; G Yeomans of East Sussex; Miss A Macnin of Hants; J Lester of Essex; and U Jansen of Germany (Roses stamps presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. Rev J Moyes; 2. Paul Leith; 3. Birmingham; 4. Charing Cross Post Office; 5. 37p; 6. 1976.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until February 1992. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

5 Mar	Science stamps (AS447)
5 Mar	Science pack (AP034)
12 Mar	Scot Aerogramme (Rugby) (QS027)
19 Mar	Prestige stamp book (YB002)
26 Mar	Greetings (Smiles) stamps (JB003)
9 Apr	CEPT/Space stamp cards (AQ157)
23 Apr	CEPT/Space stamps (AS452)
23 Apr	CEPT/Space pack (AP095)
14 May	Definitives Pack No. 24 (DR001)
14 May	NPM Stamping Mail cards (NQ908)
14 May	Scotland 22p CPL paper (SS224)
14 May	Scotland 26p CPL paper (SS263)
14 May	Scotland 37p CPL paper (SS371)
14 May	Wales 22p CPL paper (WS223)
28 May	Sport stamp cards (AQ162)
11 Jun	Sport stamps (AS457)
11 Jun	Sport pack (AP096)
25 Jun	50p book (Aero 4) (TB007)
25 Jun	£1 book (Mills 4) (TB008)
2 Jul	Roses stamp cards (AQ167)
16 Jul	Roses stamps (AS462)
16 Jul	Roses pack (AP097)
23 Jul	Gaidhealach Aerogramme (QS028)
30 Jul	DL stamped env. 1st class (RX001)
30 Jul	DL stamped env. 2nd class (RX002)
30 Jul	C4 stamped env. 1st class (RZ001)
30 Jul	C4 stamped env. 2nd class (RZ002)
30 Jul	C5 stamped env. 1st class (RY001)
30 Jul	C5 stamped env. 2nd class (RY002)
6 Aug	Dinosaur stamp cards (AQ173)
6 Aug	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB035)
6 Aug	4 x 1st class book/W (UB036)
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB037)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/W (UB038)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/H (UB039)
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UB040)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/Q (UB041)
20 Aug	Dinosaurs stamps (AS468)
20 Aug	Dinosaurs pack (AP098)

Forthcoming

3 Sep	Map stamp cards
10 Sep	6p Def. — lime green
10 Sep	18p Def. — light green
10 Sep	24p Def. — rust
10 Sep	28p Def. — slate blue
10 Sep	34p Def. — purple

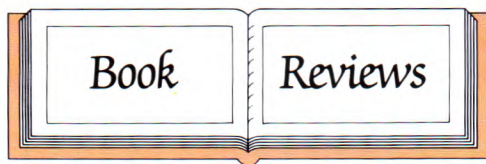
10 Sep	35p Def. — old gold
10 Sep	39p Def. — rhododendron
10 Sep	50p book (1p/24p stamps)
10 Sep	£1 book (2p/24p stamps)
10 Sep	New Defs. Pack
16 Sep	£1.32 book (33p stamps)
16 Sep	£1.56 book (39p stamps)
16 Sep	18p Coil (500 and 1000)
16 Sep	24p Coil (500 and 1000)
17 Sep	Map stamps and pack
17 Sep	NPM Map cards (5)
2 Oct	Mixed Value Coil (4p/5p)
8 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
12 Nov	Christmas stamps and pack
12 Nov	Christmas stamp book
12 Nov	1991 Year Pack
12 Nov	1991 Yearbook
12 Nov	NPM "Old Christmas" cards
19 Nov	Enschedeé 18p
26 Nov	Modified High Values
31 Dec	Seasons (Winter) stamp cards
14 Jan	Seasons stamps and pack
28 Jan	Greetings stamp book
Jan	Queen's 40th Anniv stamp cards
6 Feb	Queen's 40th Anniv stamps and pack
25 Feb	Prestige Stamp Book (Wales)

Notes:

1. Stamped envelopes available only from British Philatelic Bureau.
2. The 2nd class books (6 August) have NVI stamps in bright blue. The 1st class books (6 August) have NVI stamps in flame (as previous issue) but with new Freepost address in London (previously Newcastle upon Tyne) printed on book cover. H = Harrison; Q = Questa; W = Walsall.

Successful SWIPEX

15 June was a red letter day for philately in the South West. The second SWIPEX (South West Inter-federation Philatelic Exhibition) and fair was held at Torquay Town Hall. More than 300 people came to see the many superb displays and the South West was delighted to welcome John Sussex, Chairman of the British Philatelic Federation, who presented the top awards. The 21 dealers present offered a wide selection of stamps and covers. Plans are already in hand for the next SWIPEX — to be held at Exeter University on 3 July 1993. Enquiries to: Mrs Mary Claydon, Hazelhurst, Tiverton Road, Bampton, TIVERTON, Devon, EX16 9LJ.



An Post — the Irish Post Office — has produced an attractive little booklet entitled **A Brief History of The General Post Office Dublin**. Dublin's earliest chief post office was established in the High Street in 1668, later moving to various sites before settling on College Green in 1783. Until 1801 the College Green triangle was "the pumping heart of Dublin" with Trinity College at its base, the Parliament buildings on the right side and the GPO on the left. It was here that most of "the action" took place. Watching mail coaches leaving the GPO was a popular leisure activity. The foundation stone of the new GPO in O'Connell Street was laid in 1814 and the building opened for business on 6 January 1818. In front is a grand portico, 50 feet in length, consisting of a pediment, supported by six massive pillars of the Ionic order. The pediment is surmounted by statues of Hibernia (with spear and harp-emblazoned shield), Fidelity and Mercury. The building is considered second only to the Custom House in terms of architectural design in a city noted for fine buildings. The GPO is best known as the scene of fighting during the Easter Rising of 1916. Badly damaged, the building was restored and



remains "the focus of many public events in our national life." It has again been recently renovated. This booklet contains some fine illustrations of the GPO and of stamps connected with its history. An appendix lists the Postmasters General in Ireland, 1784-1809. Available from: Philatelic Bureau, GPO, Dublin 1, price £1.95, handling charge 32p to UK addresses.

The 13th edition of the popular **Stamps of Ireland: Specialised Handbook** is now available, published jointly by Ian Whyte (Ireland) Ltd and MacDonnell Whyte Ltd, stamp dealers of Dublin. Of particular interest to readers of this *Bulletin* will be listings of "Great Britain used in Ireland" between 1840 and 1922. The 1d black and 2d blue with Irish postmarks are priced at £170 and £280, used on cover at £230 and £450 respectively. It is interesting to compare the prices here with those for used stamps in the Gibbons catalogue. The George V 9d olive green (of 1912-24 issue) is catalogued used by S.G. at £15; the MacDonnell-Whyte price for an example used in Ireland is £35 (£50 on cover).



Some allowance should be made, of course, for the difference between the British and Irish pounds. Similarly the 1½d and 1s Postage Dues of 1914-24 are priced used by S.G. at £15 and £2; with Irish cancellations the MacDonnell-Whyte prices are £45 and £12. Some British stamps with Irish cancels are obviously worth searching for. Also included in this useful catalogue are British stamps overprinted for use in Ireland (1922) and all Irish definitive and commemorative issues since 1922. The listings are specialised including varieties, watermark, perforation, gum and paper differences. Booklets, panes, postage dues, airmails, forerunners, essays and postal stationery are all listed for those whose collections extend beyond postage stamps. Well illustrated. 132 pages, card covers. Available from Ian Whyte (Ireland) Ltd, 27 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2, price £6.50 UK, \$14.95 USA, \$17.50 Canada, \$18.50 Australia, postage extra.

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin office.

Europe in Space. The Cambridge Stamp Centre has a limited number of Europe in Space first day covers signed by "space" personalities including Patrick Moore; Anthony Lawton, President of the British Interplanetary Society; and Miss V Concannon of the London Planetarium. Details from: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA, Tel. Cambridge (0223) 63980 or 321853.

Birmingham Cub Scouts. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of Birmingham County Cub Scouts a special cover featuring the Scouts logo was produced on their behalf by J & M Arlington Ltd. A special handstamp was applied to 22p Scientific Achievements stamp. Price £2.50 inclusive of postage & packing. Orders/enquiries: Peter Oldham, 237 Whetstone Lane, Aldridge, WALSALL, West Midlands.

Dinosaurs. The City of Plymouth Museums & Art Gallery have produced a cover to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the coining in Plymouth of the term "dinosaur". The limited edition cover bears the five Dinosaur stamps cancelled with a special 20 August handstamp. Price £5 including postage & packing. Orders/enquiries: Plymouth City Museums & Art Gallery, Drake Circus, PLYMOUTH PL4 8AJ.

Ordnance Survey Act. Although the Ordnance Survey is generally considered as being formally founded in 1791, the modern authority for its activities dates from the Ordnance Survey Act of 1841. To mark the 150th anniversary of the Act a special cover has been prepared and special handstamp, showing Big Ben, sponsored. The cover depicts an old map of Westminster. Price £6. Overseas add £1 postage. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Hamstreet. Hamstreet, a small village in Kent, will feature on the Maps stamps, issued on 17 September to mark the bicentenary of the Ordnance Survey. Ham Street was selected as an area with many of the features for which OS symbols exist and was part of the OS's first triangulation survey. The stamps show the area of Hamstreet as it has appeared on OS maps



over two centuries. A special cover – number 100 in the Leicester First Day Cover series (LFDC) – features views of the village and bears a special Hamstreet handstamp of 17 September. Price £5.50 or £9.75 signed by Kenneth Kendall of "Treasure Hunt" fame. Overseas add £1 postage. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. To coincide with the Maps stamps, A G Bradbury has produced a first day cover with the help of the RICS. The cover features surveyors at work and covers will be available bearing the four Maps stamps cancelled by a special handstamp featuring the Institution's logo. Price £6.75 or £9.75 signed by Peter McMaster, Director-General of the Ordnance Survey. Overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Birthplace of Tourism. This year marks the 150th anniversary of popular tourism thanks to the pioneering ways of Thomas Cook. Little did he know when he ran his first package tour from Leicester to Loughborough in 1841 that he was giving Leicester the title "Birthplace of Tourism". 1991 also marks the bicentenary of the Ordnance Survey. Both these anniversaries are brought together on a luxury first day cover bearing a reproduction of the Thomas Mopule's map of Leicestershire with the Leicester/Loughborough route highlighted in red. The special handstamp shows the map of the world with Leicester's Clock Tower featured prominently. Covers with single Maps stamp £3.75, full set £7.50. Overseas add £1. Limited edition of 800 covers. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Cover Collections. The Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd advise that they have available a number of collections, brief details follow: (1) Firefly – 4 covers commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Royal Naval Air Services, depicting the Fairey Firefly amongst other naval aircraft. Each cover is of similar design and

signed by a Battle of Britain pilot. (2) Eagle Day – 13 August 1940 saw the greatest concentration of enemy aircraft making numerous attacks over the UK mainland; the RAF held the attacks on what was effectively the day they won the Battle of Britain. The collection comprises 9 covers, of several different designs, each with a special postmark. Each cover has the signature of a Battle of Britain hero. (3) Channel Ports – During the period 8-14 September 1940 maximum effort was made to destroy the invasion barges which had been gathering in the Channel ports. The 6 covers, all of the same design, feature artwork by Tony Theobald showing a Blenheim attacking barges and a Spitfire destroying a Heinkel III over Kent; covers signed by Battle of Britain pilot and individually numbered. (4) Broadway – 8 covers commemorating the 60th anniversary of the first British sound film “Broadway”; covers carried on Concorde from London to New York and signed by personalities including Charlton Heston, Dudley Moore, Robert DeNiro and Deborah Kerr. (5) Pinewood – 8 covers commemorating the 60th anniversary of the first British talking film, Alfred Hitchcock’s “Blackmail”. Each cover bears a special pictorial postmark and signature of a British actor, including Robert Powell, Leigh Lawson, Edward Fox and Lionel Blair. Details of all these collections from: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA, Tel. 0223-63980 or 321853.

St Ives Lifeboat. A cover — No. 204 in the Royal National Lifeboat Institution series — was produced for the official naming of the St Ives lifeboat “The Princess Royal” on 17 July. The cover bears a photograph of the lifeboat and 22p Roses stamp cancelled by a special handstamp. Price £2 or £3 signed by the Coxswain (limited number) plus 50p postage. A donation is made to the RNLI on every cover sold. Orders/enquiries: Pilgrim Philatelics, PO Box 20, CANTERBURY CT1 2XX.

World Scout Jamboree. In August 1991, 15,000 young people from more than 100 countries will meet together at the 17th World Scout Jamboree in Korea. They will have 10 days of fun and friendship, living in the spirit of the Jamboree theme “Many Lands, One World”. The UK contingent will comprise nearly 1,400 people. Their visit will include a few days staying in a Korean family home, another few days homestay in Japan and finally two nights in a top class hotel in Seoul. A special souvenir cover has been produced, with the kind

assistance of Royal Mail Stamps and Centurion Press Ltd. It is available with a handstamp from Gilwell Park, Chingford. Price £1.50 or limited edition signed by W Garth Morrison, Chief Scout, £5. Remittances to “The Scout Association”; proceeds to Operation Soraksan, the UK Scouts’ Fund for Caribbean Scouts to attend the World Jamboree. Orders/enquiries: International Dept, The Scout Association, Queen’s Gate, LONDON SW7 5JS.

Correction: In July we gave details of football covers produced by Dawn Cover Productions of Stockport. Reference was made to a cover for the 100th Cup Final between Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspurs; this should have read the 110th Cup Final. We are pleased to set the record straight.

Reach for the Sky Appeal

To raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund “Reach for the Sky Appeal, No. 32 Squadron of the RAF flew “Gallantry” covers on 11 September 1990 to commemorate the Battle of Britain. Some were also flown on 15 September, day of the commemorative fly-past over London, and by an aircraft operating in the Gulf. The signed covers were offered for sale in the *Bulletin* and orders were received from customers in the UK, USA, Canada, Singapore, Israel, Germany and Belgium. A total donation of £50,000 was eventually presented to the RAF Benevolent



Fund. The photograph shows the cheque being presented to Air Vice Marshal F C Hurrell, Director of Appeals for the Benevolent Fund (second left) by Group Captain G Bunn, Officer Commanding RAF Northolt (second right). Also pictured are Project Officer, Master Airloadmaster A Bain (left) and the Officer Commanding No. 32 Squadron, Wing Commander J R D Morley (right).

September Digest

Issued in September

3 September: Maps stamp cards (Nos. 137A-D), price 19p each.

10 September: Definitives – 6p lime green, 18p light green, 24p rust, 28p slate blue, 34p purple, 35p old gold, 39p rhododendron.

Printing: Harrison & Sons, photogravure, all Advanced Coated Paper, except 18p — one phosphor band. Sheets of 200.

Presentation Pack: No. 25, price £2.15.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Windsor.

10 September: 50p and £1 Machine Books containing 2 x 1p and 2 x 24p stamps and 2 x 2p, 2 x 24p stamps and 2 labels respectively.

Printing: Harrisons, photogravure. Both books contain stamps on ACP. The £1 book has straight edges on left and right sides of pane.

16 September: £1.32 and £1.56 books containing 4 x 33p and 4 x 39p stamps respectively. Both books also contain 4 airmail labels.

Printing: Walsall, lithography. Phosphor Coated Paper.

16 September: Stamp Rolls – XL500 500 x 18p; YL500 500 x 24p.

Printing: Harrisons, photogravure. 24p on ACP, 18p one phosphor band.

17 September: Map stamps – 24p, 28p, 33p, 39p.

Designer: Howard Brown.

Printing: 24p and 28p printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd, 24p by intaglio (recess) and offset lithography and 28p by offset litho. 33p and 39p printed offset litho by The House of Questa Ltd. All 35 x 37mm, perf. 14 x 14½, phosphor coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Southampton.

Presentation Pack: No. 221, price £1.55

17 September: National Postal Museum Maps postcards – five cards showing maps from John Cary's *Survey of the High Roads from London and New Map of England and Wales with parts of Scotland*. Nos. NPM91/9-13, price 20p each.

18 September: Maps stamps souvenir cover, price 21p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters.

Withdrawn in September

3 September: 50p and £1 stamp books: Aero-planes 3 and Mills 3 (issued 4 Sep 1990).

10 September: Gallantry stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

14 September: Definitives – 10p beige (issued 16 Jul 1985); 15p bright blue (26 Sep 1989); 20p black (26 Sep 1989); 22p yellowish green (28 Aug 1984); 24p terracotta (26 Sep 1989); 28p sand (23 Aug 1988); 29p purple (26 Sep 1989); and 34p slate (26 Sep 1989).

14 September: Penny Black Anniversary Definitives – 15p, 29p, 34p and 37p (issued 10 Jan 1990) *Note:* 20p value remains on sale.

14 September: Stamp Rolls/Strips – RL 500 x 15p; TL 500 x 20p, SF 1000 x 15p and SG 1000 x 20p.

14 September: Country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales – 15p, 20p, 24p, 34p.

14 September: Low Value New Issue Packs Nos. 19 & 21; Country Stamps New Issue Pack No. 20.

16 September: £1.24 stamp book (4 x 31p stamps).

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